

# Committee of Public Health

## SB 1088

March 17, 2015

Good afternoon members of the Committee:

My name is Dawn DeMatteo. I live in East Haven with my 22 year old Son (Anthony) who is both mentally and physically disabled. He requires 24/7 care and is unable to perform any activities of daily living. . He is a very active, non-vocal, individual who wears diapers and requires full hands-on assistance with bathing, dressing, eating, etc. Additionally, he cannot be left alone and has no regard for safety. While Anthony is able to walk independently, he is unstable and needs constant assistance to avoid falls and injuries. My days are spent trying to hold down a full-time job while providing care for him and his 13 year old brother, Michael. Michael is my back-up for Anthony's care and is responsible to care for Anthony when the health aide leaves at 6:00 until I return from work. Anthony has been on the waiting list for numerous years as a Priority 1 with a 'level of needs' of 7 (8 being the highest). **PRIOR** (and I emphases PRIOR) to the most recent budget release and dramatic cuts to DDS, residential placement has become obsolete until the death of their caregiver.

I am submitting testimony to **SUPPORT** S.B. 1088 AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY. The bill would require the Commissioner of Development Services (DDS) to develop a plan for the closure of state-operated facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities; additionally, restoring funds which can assist those on the waiting list.

In listening to numerous testimonies and attending Commissioner Murray's confirmation hearing, there was an outline provided for the benefit of all stakeholder's to develop a plan for Southbury Training School that would be fair for all parties involved.

**It is time for a plan to be put into place. Please help pass S.B. 1088.**

Thank you,

Dawn DeMatteo

